

SENIOR SCENE

Information & Events for Tucson's Senior Community

Quarter 4 2017

MEDICARE 101

What's with the alphabet soup? Medicare A, B, C, D, plans, parts? Where did F come from if there's no E? Let's start at the beginning and sort this out!

- Medicare Part A is coverage for hospital stays, skilled nursing and hospice home care and covers your medications during this time.
- Medicare Part B is coverage for visits to your Medical doctor and specialists; this part only covers medications that you cannot administer to yourself.
- Medicare Part C is another name for Medicare Advantage plans that combine Parts A & B; often times include Part D, coverage for medications and added benefits. These plans are network based and have an out of pocket cost limit for medical expenses.
- Medicare Part D is coverage for medications, "D for drugs".

All of the parts of Medicare have deductibles and copayments. Supplemental Plans (including F) can provide additional coverage for these costs. Sorry folks, there is no part or plan "E".

If you have medical insurance through your employer, you can stay on it for as long as you are an employee and you will not incur any late enrollment penalties.

Annual Open Enrollment begins October 15th and ends December 7th. During this time, changes to Part C and Part D can be made and would become effective January 1st.

Sounds simple, right? If you still have unanswered questions, contact MedicareAZ @ 520.370.5962 and ask for Ann Marie!

In This Issue

- Medicare 101
- What in the heck is a "HECM"?
- Minimize & Declutter for a Better Lifestyle
- Twilight Wish
- Meetup—Tucson's Social Seniors 60+

Did You Know

- The Social Security increase for 2018 is a whopping 2%.
- Eggs are still considered the most nutritionally complete food.
- President George Bush (41st) once quipped "I'm President of the United States and I'm not going to eat any more broccoli".

What in the Heck is a “HECM”?

FHA has recently (October 2, 2017) “tweaked” its Reverse Mortgage program. In an effort to make their reverse mortgage program, which is called a HECM (Home Equity Conversion Mortgage) more consumer friendly, FHA has instituted significant changes that will benefit both the borrower as well as the borrower’s estate.

New “principal limits” (loan amounts) will assure all parties that there will be more retained equity present when the borrower either elects to sell the home in the future and/or retaining that equity for the estate in the event of the death of the last surviving borrower. At least one borrower must be 62 years old and the program requires significant equity. The loan amounts are age based and can vary from approximately 40% of appraised value to a maximum of approximately 60% of appraised value.

Lower initial interest rates as well as lower required FHA mortgage insurance premiums will reduce and slow the accrued interest/MIP which is added to the loan balance on a monthly basis.

Left unchanged is the option to receive monthly income “for life” or the ability to establish a line-of-credit that actually grows/increases monthly. With adequate equity a reverse mortgage can replace a traditional mortgage and thus eliminate an existing principal and interest payment. The HECM program also has provisions that allow a senior to buy a home utilizing a reverse mortgage.

As long a borrower resides in the home, NO monthly mortgage payment is ever required. The borrower must pay real estate taxes, homeowner’s insurance, and any homeowner association dues.

“Don’t make the mistake of believing what you think you know about this program”---Get the facts and decide for yourself.

Steve Wolf “Arizona’s Senior Loan Officer” 520-975-1900
swolf@vipmtginc.com

Senior Sillies

Husband: “When I get angry at you, you never fight back. How come you control your anger?”

Wife: “When I get angry at you, I clean the toilet bowl.”

Hubby: “How does that help ?”

Wife: “I use your toothbrush.”

An 85-year-old widow was on a blind date and upon her return, her daughter noticed that she was upset. “What went wrong, mother?”

“Oh, I had to slap my dates’ face three times
“she replied.

“You mean he got fresh with you?”

“No, not at all, I thought he was dead.”

Minimize and Declutter for a Better Lifestyle

While many of us dream of a simplified life, one of the first steps that must be undertaken is to organize and de-clutter your home. Consider the benefits of having fewer possessions: less debt, less to organize and maintain, more usable space, and more time and energy for your passions. The question then becomes – where do I start?

Consider these useful tips:

1. Start small and accumulate successes. Select one area or room of your home to begin the decluttering, and don't wander between rooms. Donate or sell items that you no longer need. You'll gain confidence and momentum as you begin to see results.
2. Organize and downsize your closets. If you can't remember the last time you wore an item then donate those items.
3. Clean out your pantry, refrigerator, freezer, and medicine cabinets. Discard dated food and prescriptions. Don't buy any new food until you have minimized your food inventory to a manageable level.

If you feel overwhelmed by de-cluttering there are local specialists who can help. Jay Brosky is an Associate Broker and Senior Real Estate Specialist with the Orange Realty Team at RE/MAX (520) 400-8020 or jaybrosky@remax.com.

Remember – there is no such thing as an organized junk drawer!

Twilight Wish

Twilight Wish was started in May 2003, by Cass Forkin, while having lunch at a diner in Doylestown, Pa. After noticing several elderly women struggling to pay their dinner bill, Cass anonymously paid it for them. Their gratitude for her simple gesture inspired Cass to found Twilight Wish Foundation, the first national senior wish-granting organization dedicated to the needs of the low income seniors.

Twilight Wish honors and acknowledges seniors for all they have given to others by bringing comfort and joy into their lives through individual wish granting celebrations. Twilight Wish grants wishes to deserving & low income seniors and veterans age 68 and older who earn less than 200% of poverty level annually, or who live in a nursing facility. By treating the elderly with compassion, we restore their dignity and bring them hope.

Our mission is to honor and enrich the lives of deserving seniors through wish granting celebrations that connect generations. Our vision is to make the world a nicer place to age — one wish at a time. Our Arizona chapter has been granting wishes here to low income seniors since 2006.

Rose Muzzy - Director/Lisa Mach - Assistant Director, 520-405-0327,
www.twilightwisherizona.org,



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TUCSON SOCIAL SENIORS 60+

UPCOMING EVENTS – LET ANN MARIE KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN IN THE FUN!! **520.314.1011**



Regularly Scheduled

Here are some of the regularly scheduled events

First Wednesday	9:00am – 11:00am	Coffee Talk - Central (Grant and Swan) - First Watch - Crossroads, 4775 E Grant Rd, Tucson, AZ 85712, USA
Second Monday	2:00pm – 4:00pm	Late Lunch at Sweet Tomatoes - Northwest - Sweet Tomatoes- Tucson Mall, 4420 N Stone Ave, Tucson, AZ 85705, USA
Second Wednesday	6:30pm – 7:30pm	Hand Drumming with Solange! Change Your Rhythm - Change Your Life - 4202 Calle El Centro, Tucson, AZ
Third Thursday	9:00am – 10:30am	Coffee Talk - Northwest (River and Oracle) - First Watch - Fiesta, 5055 N Oracle Rd, Tucson, AZ 85704, USA
Fourth Wednesday	2:00pm – 4:00pm	Late Lunch at Sweet Tomatoes - East - Sweet Tomatoes- Tucson II, 6202 E Broadway Blvd, Tucson, AZ 85711, USA

Not so Regularly Scheduled

Watch for the not so regularly scheduled events that are fun and interesting!

Educational Events	Lunch hour or Mid Day	Many Educational Events are posted , check the calendar of events for dates and details
Fairs and Festivals	weekends	Tucson has so many fun fairs and festivals for all seasons and reasons! And it's more fun to go with friends!
Happy Hour	4:00pm- 6:00pm	Social Happy Hour Events , some specific to couples or singles, others are specific to food choices or days of the week! You just never know!
Live Music & Dancing	7:00pm- 10:00pm	Popular local music venues , check the calendar of events for dates and details

FOR MORE DETAILS, GO TO OUR **MEETUP.COM** PAGE – OR – **WWW.SENIORSUPPORTALLIANCE.ORG**



(520) 314-1011
 tucsonssa@gmail.com
 www.seniorsupportalliance.org

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